

## Food Stamp Program Guide (FSPG) Letter # 546

---

**Subject**                    **Disaster Food Stamp Program (DFSP) Income Eligibility Standards Update (10/09)**

---

**Purpose**                    The purpose of this letter is to inform staff of changes to the DFSP income eligibility standards and updates to the Food Stamp Program Guide (FSPG) Chapter 63-500, the DFSP desk aid and approval and denial notices.

---

**Effective Date**        October 1, 2009

---

**Background**            As of October 1, 2009, the Food Stamp Program shelter expense deduction and the income eligibility standards are changing as a result of the Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP) cost-of-living adjustments (COLAS) for fiscal year (FY) 2010. As a result of the increase, the DFSP gross income limit, which includes shelter, income and liquid resources, is also increasing.

---

**Change in DFSP Income and Eligibility Standards**        DFSP Income and Eligibility Standards will change effective 10/1/2009:

Household Size	DFSP Income Eligibility Standards (10/09)	DFSP Allotment (04/09)
1	\$1,503	\$200
2	\$1,815	\$367
3	\$2,126	\$526
4	\$2,450	\$668
5	\$2,788	\$793
6	\$3,125	\$952
7	\$3,437	\$1,052
8	\$3,749	\$1,202
For each additional household member add:	\$312	\$150

**NOTE:** DFSP allotments are not changing with the 10/2009 COLA.

---

The [DFSP Desk Aid](#) has been updated with the following information:

Page	Description
1	<p><b>ROW 3, DFSP Eligibility Requirements/Residency column</b> (second bullet)</p> <p>Changed the following statement:            “If the disaster applicants have moved out of the county, they are eligible but must apply in the disaster county” to:            “Households that have moved out of the county must apply in the disaster county”</p> <p><b>ROW 3, DFSP Eligibility Requirements/Adverse Effect column</b> (third bullet)</p> <p>Added example and expanded the disaster-related expenses information:            “Disaster-related <b>out-of-pocket</b> expenses incurred during the disaster period <b>not expected to be reimbursed</b> during the benefit period (e.g. expense paid with a credit card, but paying credit card bill after the DFSP benefit period).”</p>
3	<p><b>ROW 1, Income and Resource Test/DFSP Allotment Determination (Benefit Computation)</b></p> <p><b>First Column</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “To calculate the income and resource test (See table:)” is being changed to: “To determine eligibility to the DFSP, apply the following test (See table):”</li> <li>• Statement “This total must no exceed the <b>DFSP gross income and resource limit</b> for the DFSP household size” is being changed to: “This total must not exceed the <b>DFSP Income Eligibility Standards</b> for the DFSP household size”.</li> </ul> <p><b>Third Column</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The title of column B in the second row of the DFSP eligibility test table (DFSP Income and Resource Limit) is being changed to “<b>DFSP Income Eligibility Standards</b>”, and the column has been updated with the October 2009 COLA increase.</li> <li>• The statement at the bottom of the DFSP Income Eligibility Standards table: “If the Income and Resource Test total is less than the amount in column B, the household is eligible to DFSP” is being changed to: “If total take-home-pay, plus accessible resources, minus allowable disaster related out-of-pocket expenses is less than the amount in column B, the household is eligible to DFSP”</li> </ul>

---

Forms Impact

The English and Spanish versions of the DFSP approval and denial notices have been updated and can be ordered through iWAY. The notices can also be located in the [S:\ENTERPRISE/Food Stamp State Forms/DFSP Forms & Notices](#) folder.

Updated DFSP Notices <i>(effective 10/1/09)</i>	
• <a href="#">09-89 DFSP Approval Notice</a>	• <a href="#">09-89 DFSP Approval Notice (Spanish)</a>
• <a href="#">09-90 DFSP Denial Notice</a>	• <a href="#">09-90 DFSP Denial Notice (Spanish)</a>

---

The DFSP section 63-500 of the FSPG is being updated as follows:

FSPG Section	Title	Description
<a href="#">63-501.7</a>	DFSP Desk Aid	See DFSP Desk Aid Update above
<a href="#">63-506.1</a>	Residency	Changed the following statement: <b>“If the disaster applicants have moved out of the county, they are eligible, but must apply in the disaster county”</b> to: <b>“Households that have moved out of the county must apply in the disaster county”</b> .
<a href="#">63-506.4</a>	Adverse Effect	Added link to 63-503.3, Deductible Disaster Related Expenses
<a href="#">63-506.5</a>	Income and Resource Test	Changed the following statements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>“To calculate the income and resource test”</b> to <b>“To determine eligibility to the DFSP, apply the following test:”</b></li> <li>• <b>“This total must not exceed the DFSP gross income and resource limit</b> for the DFSP household size” to <b>“This total must not exceed the DFSP Income Eligibility Standards</b> for the DFSP household size.”</li> <li>• Column B title <b>“DFSP Income and Resource Limit”</b> is now <b>“DFSP Income Eligibility Standards”</b></li> <li>• Updated the DFSP Income Eligibility Standards to reflect 2009 COLA changes</li> </ul>
<a href="#">63-506.6</a>	Verifications	Under “Loss or Inaccessibility of Liquid Resources and Countable Income”, identified the State Bank Commissioner in California as The Department of Financial Institutions (DFI).

Assistant Deputy Director (Original Signed 10/19/2009)

**KIM FORRESTER**  
 Assistant Deputy Director  
 Administrative Support  
 Strategic Planning & Operational Support